TRAINING COURSE

7 TO 9 DECEMBER 2026 · EVESHAM

Event Water Safety Management

Great events. Safe water. Total confidence.

A three-part course for the people who run, host and approve events in, on or near water. Learn to plan with confidence, give every participant the highest standard of water safety, and stay in control on the day.

FORMAT	BOOK	EXPERIENCE	AWARD
Three one-day parts, classroom based	All three parts, or just the ones you need	None needed	Valid for 2 years

Surf Life Saving Great Britain

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About the course

Open water swims, triathlons, regattas, raft races, beach events and waterside festivals bring people together and close to water. Behind every great water event is a clear plan, a well-briefed team and someone who knows what to do if things change.

Event Water Safety Management gives you that knowledge. Over three one-day parts you learn to understand the water and the people using it, assess the risks, write a water safety plan, organise your safety team, and lead the response if an incident happens.

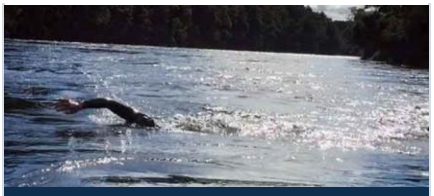
The course follows the Purple Guide and National Water Safety Forum guidance on water events, and uses real examples from events all year round, summer and winter. It is taught in the classroom, with no water work, so you don't need any water safety experience.

Who it is for

- Event organisers and race directors who run events in, on or near water
- Councils and landowners who host events on their beaches, land or waterways, including events, licensing, parks, beach and harbour teams
- Safety Advisory Group members who review event plans
- Charities that run swims and challenge events
- Health and safety and risk professionals who want to understand the water environment
- SLSGB club members who manage or support events

Choose the parts you need

Each part is a full day and can be booked on its own. Most event organisers take all three. Councils and Safety Advisory Group members often start with Part 1.



PART 1 · MON 7 DEC

Event Water Safety Awareness

Who is responsible for what, the guidance you work to, and how coast, rivers and lakes behave.

Suits everyone, especially councils, landowners and Safety Advisory Groups

PART 2 · TUE 8 DEC

Preparedness, Planning and Risk Management

Event risk assessment, your water safety plan, your team, briefings and safeguarding.

Suits people who plan events

PART 3 · WED 9 DEC

Physiology, Operational and Emergency Management

How the body reacts to water, running the day, and leading your team through an incident.

Suits people who run events on the day

How you learn

Each day mixes short presentations with case studies, group exercises on real event venues, and role play. Groups are small, up to 12 people, with two experienced tutors so there is plenty of time for questions and for working on your own events.

What each day covers

Every day runs from 09:00 to 16:30, with breaks and lunch. Timings may move a little on the day.

1 Event Water Safety Awareness

Monday 7 December

09:00	Welcome, and why event water safety matters
09:30	The role of the event water safety manager: who is responsible for what, the Purple Guide and National Water Safety Forum guidance
10:45	Water safety awareness: the people and activities at water events, from swimmers to spectators
11:30	The coast: wind, weather and waves, currents and rip currents, and reading a forecast
13:15	Rivers and lakes: currents, flow and how water levels change through the seasons
14:00	Understanding drowning: how it happens and how to prevent it
15:00	Reading the venue: group exercise on a beach, a river and a lake in summer and winter
16:00	Knowledge check, recap and close

2 Preparedness, Planning and Risk Management

Tuesday 8 December

09:00	Recap of Part 1
09:15	Effective management: planning ahead, putting systems in place and responding on the day
10:00	Risk assessment: written assessments and dynamic risk assessment as conditions change
11:15	Event risk assessment: site visits, getting specialist advice, and a group exercise risk assessing an open water swim
13:15	Your water safety plan: before, during and after the event, in an emergency, and clear criteria for when to stop or cancel
14:00	Managing your team: safety cover, briefings, debriefs and team communication, with a briefing role play
15:00	Communicating with organisers, participants and spectators; reporting and the law
15:45	Safeguarding children and adults at risk at events
16:15	Planning checklist, recap and close

3 Physiology, Operational and Emergency Management

Wednesday 9 December

09:00	Recap of Part 2
09:15	Drowning and cold water: how the body reacts, cold water shock, swim starts, and warming and welfare
10:30	Dealing with emergencies at events, with an emergency action plan exercise
11:30	Incident command and decision making: taking charge and sizing up the situation
13:15	Search and rescue, and when a rescue becomes a recovery
14:00	Working with the emergency services, closing an incident and looking after your team afterwards
14:45	Scenario assessment: plan, brief and respond to an unfolding event in small groups
16:15	Results, feedback and next steps

Assessment and your award

There is a short knowledge check for each topic, and a scenario assessment at the end of Part 3, where you work in a small group to plan, brief and respond to an event as it unfolds. Tutors support you throughout.

Complete all three parts to receive the **SLSGB Event Water Safety Management award**, valid for 2 years and renewed with a short refresher. If you take only some parts, you receive a certificate for each part you complete.

Course details

Dates	Monday 7 to Wednesday 9 December 2026
Times	09:00 to 16:30 each day
Venue	SLSGB training venue, Evesham, Worcestershire
Group size	Up to 12 people, with two tutors
Experience	None needed. Aged 18 or over
Book by	Friday 27 November 2026

By the end you will be able to

- Explain who is responsible for water safety at an event
- Spot the hazards of the coast, rivers and lakes in every season
- Write an event risk assessment and a water safety plan
- Brief and manage a water safety team
- Lead the response to an emergency and work with the emergency services

Prices

Option	Price	With VAT
All three parts	£450 + VAT	**£540**
All three parts, SLSGB members	£405 + VAT	**£486**
Part 1 only	£125 + VAT	**£150**
Part 2 only	£150 + VAT	**£180**
Part 3 only	£175 + VAT	**£210**

We can invoice your organisation. Training several people? We can run the course for up to 12 people at your venue on dates that suit you.

Questions

Do I need to be a lifeguard or a strong swimmer?

No. The course is classroom based and you don't need any water safety experience.

Does it qualify me to provide rescue cover?

No. It trains you to plan, manage and oversee water safety at events, and to judge whether the rescue cover is right.

Is it only for big events?

No. It suits small community events as well as large races, all year round.

Book your place

Email **mail@slsgb.org.uk** and we'll send you the booking form. Tell us which parts you would like.

Questions? Call 01392 369111. Bookings close on Friday 27 November.